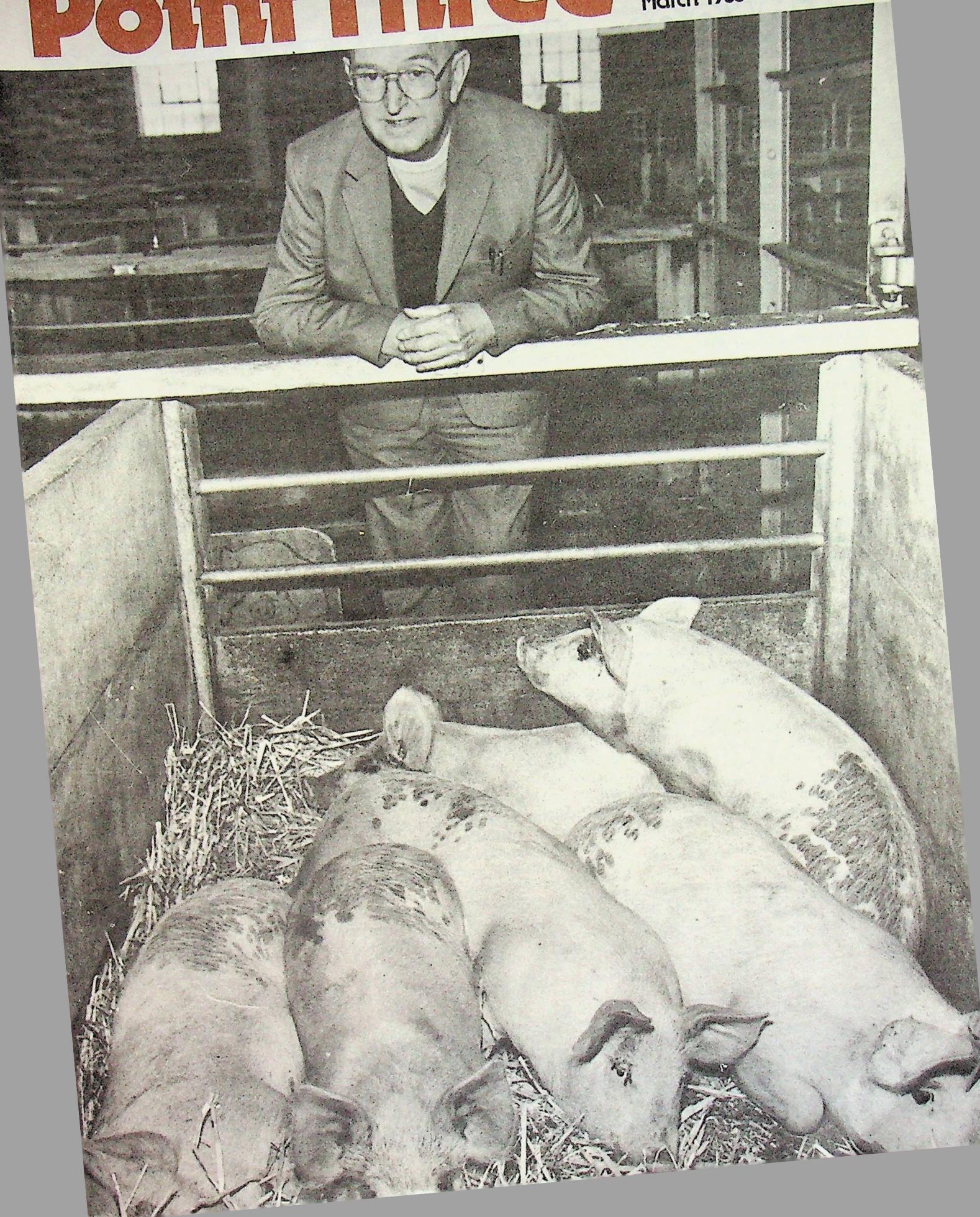


Point Three

The Toc H magazine
March 1985 10p



Point Three

Editor: John Mitchell

Editorial Assistant: Barbara Martin

Designer: Sybil A Chick

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House - the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points - to think fairly.

Cover Picture

The Revd John Clingo, Marches District Padre on his farewell to Hereford Market. He has spent one day there every week for 20 years since his ordination, and it was here that he first started work 50 years ago, in the pig section.

Photo: Hereford Times

Editorial

'Out of the mouths of babes . . .'

No doubt some of the younger leaders in Toc H would be deeply offended if they heard me describing them as 'babes and sucklings'. Nevertheless, that thought came to me recently when I was lucky enough to be present at a 'Leaders Training Weekend'. The weekend, which was to train potential leaders of Toc H residential 'projects', was itself led by three people whose combined ages were less than 75. The first formal session of the weekend was on 'leadership qualities'. Divided into three discussion groups, the participants wrestled with the task of listing all the leadership qualities they could, and then reducing them to a final choice of two. When, at length, the three groups reported their findings, the similarities were striking. In their own language, and drawing on their own experience, they came to conclusions which were clearly of real insight, and which many 'older and wiser' leaders might well note, to their advantage.

Each group chose a pair of qualities that were complementary. They each chose a strong quality, such as 'Self confident' or 'Having the courage of their convictions', and they each chose a soft quality, such as 'sensitivity' and 'readiness to listen to others'. In their wisdom, they had put their fingers on the essential paradox that good leadership, just like personal maturity, is about a blend between strength and softness. It is a question of both giving a firm lead, and being clear about that, and at the same time being sensitive to others, and flexible in one's leadership of them. It is linked to the time honoured truth that only if we accept balance and develop our two inner polarities of strength and softness, of masculine and feminine characteristics, do we really mature and grow. We are creatures with innate strength and softness, and a denial of either is the way of imbalance and immaturity.

Is it unfair to suggest that some of our national leaders seem to have lost sight of the need for that balance? On all sides we seem to hear people taking pride in being strong, unbending, inflexible, and determined to prove how strong they are by some form of conquest of others, whether from the political left or right. Both extremes seem to show signs of believing that this sort of lopsided leadership is what is needed, and what is wanted by the electorate. If it is true, then God help us! It is a way of confrontation and conflict, and we tread that path at our peril. What we need, desperately, is an increasing recognition that softness need not be weakness, that sensitivity is no sell-out, and that compromise is not the same as surrender. By all means let people be unbending in their opposition to what they believe to be evil, but at the point at which that becomes unbending opposition to any other group of people whom one labels as 'evil', and a determination to defeat them, it only serves to deepen and perpetuate the very evil that one seeks to resist. 'Let's smash Maggie!' is as wrong, misguided and unchristian as 'Let's smash the Miners!'

We in Toc H surely seek a society in which we can, on the one hand, deplore the actions of others while we can, on the other hand, hold fast to the fact that we believe all people to be of inestimable value and significance, and that 'smashing' anyone devalues and damages both us and them. To take this stance may well be to risk criticism as being 'fence sitters' or 'opting out' of the real issues, but it is in fact a stance which is far more difficult to sustain, and one that all too many people have forsaken for the easy option of simplistic solutions about 'winning' and 'losing'. Maybe a contribution we as individuals can make is to make it clear that we will not deride the leader who admits an error or lack of judgment and we will not laugh to scorn the leader whose public persona cracks occasionally to reveal the soft interior. Maybe we can make it clear that we are not among those who long for 'larger than life' leaders who never make a mistake, are never deviated, and who know all the answers! To yearn for such an unobtainable myth is a sign of great immaturity and massive dependence.

What is true nationally may also have its echoes inside Toc H. In our search for a new Director there are many voices raised advocating different qualities required, and they include the cry for 'strong leadership'. What is essential is that we do not try and seek some sort of Messiah figure as a focus for our unrealistic expectations. If we do that, we admit our own immaturity, and we shall inevitably be disappointed. What is needed, if the Spirit wills it, is leadership at all levels in Toc H which has both the 'courage of its convictions' and at the same time, the sensitivity to listen, to be flexible, and to know that, in the last analysis, the way of Jesus, which we claim to be trying to follow, is the way that may well lead to what in the world's opinion looks more like defeat than victory.

JEM

What's happening in Camborne?

by Dorothy Johns

'Small is Beautiful' . . . a message of encouragement for 1985

1984 . . . was it to be George Orwell's version, or were we going to make it our year, one of our making and endeavour?

Small? We are nine active members, ages ranging from 56 to 86. Beautiful? Well, it is said beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so come and view us any time. You are always welcome!

1984 started well for us here in Cornwall, with a Toc H Day Conference in January at the Chapter House of Truro Cathedral, with Frank Rice as leader of a superb team to take us through the day. Their encouragement and interest really set us up for the year!

First of all we knuckled down to put our own house in order!!

We began with the Family Purse. Over the years, we have given regularly and as well as we can for our size. Now 90% of our Branch were pensioners, was more possible? Unanimously, it was decided 'Yes'. Everyone would make sacrifices, and we would make our individual subscription the £10 hoped for by the CEC.

This done, we could now begin to think of our charity work. Although health and strength were not what they were, spirits were high, and we felt we could do our part by joining with others, making Toc H a helpful ingredient.

During the winter months members knitted tirelessly for Mother Teresa's Foundation. Our last effort was 123 vests and five blankets, and we are aiming higher next time! With summer came our first venture. June 30 was a glorious day when we joined with the Camborne Floral Club to man a flower tent at the local hospital fete. Carrying some 350

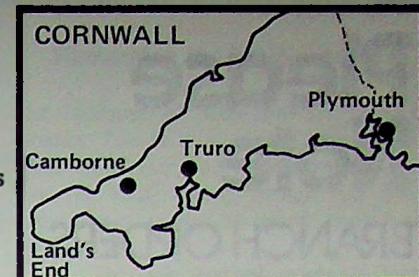
boxes of bedding plants from the nurseries (kind gifts) to the fete throughout that week . . . oh, our backs! Needless to say, the younger (!) ones took on this job, but we were glad to see the others behind the counter on the day, helping to take over £500 for our tent. Worth it all!

We scarcely had time to recover when the next Saturday, along with our associate members and other friends, we held a barbecue in aid of Leukaemia Research. It was another evening of lovely weather, raffles and stalls galore, soup, hot dogs, strawberries and cream, ice cream. What an array and what a turn out of supporters! We fell into our beds near midnight, tired but delighted with the £340 collected.

August brought our own Floral Art Show, where competitors meet from all over the county, giving us wonderful support and the most beautiful work to view. This year was as good as ever. Proceeds were £240, and £200 of this was donated to the Cornwall Arthritis Trust. Stalls and competitions were run by our members and associates, and it was a day of true Toc H feeling and friendship.

September brought Vera Andrews, the 'walking grandmother', to our area. She was walking round Britain from her home in Clacton-on-Sea, in aid of Cancer Research. What could we do? Immediately, our Chairman, Elsie John, offered her accommodation and meals, and we all went to Elsie's home to meet her and welcome her, after which we gave her a £10 gift towards her marvellous effort. What a lady! An inspiration to us all!

December brought the Christmas Bazaar held annually for the Cornish Mount Edgcumbe Cancer Hospice at St Austell. Our neighbouring Branches of Troon, Men's and Ladies, helped us to raise £70



on our stall on this occasion, where the final total was £1,370, amazing, when so many local events were taking place on the same day.

Our final event was a dazzling display of Floral Artistry for Christmas, given by our Cornish master of the art, Tom Christophers NAFAS. Tom offered this demonstration to us in aid of our chosen charity, and we chose Leukaemia Research. December 13 was a night when the hall was packed, and beside an enormous Christmas tree, Tom gave us an evening we shall never forget. He stressed during his lovely work that Christmas is the time for giving and never more necessary than this year, with so much tragedy around us, and the sick needing so much more of our work and effort for research. This feeling prevailed all evening, and there was an added awareness, commented upon by many. All our members worked hard for weeks to arrange this evening, which raised £300 which was presented to the Chairman of the West Cornwall Leukaemia Fund (see picture).

When our Christmas plants and gifts had been distributed to the Spastics Home, Blackwood House for the Elderly, St Martin's House for the Elderly, and the housebound, sick and deaf members of our community, we all felt a deep sense of thankfulness that we have had the strength given us to enjoy our year, and hope that we have kept the Toc H spirit alive and kicking in our neck of the woods!

As we said at the start, small is beautiful, and we hope we have given some encouragement to other small Branches to join with others, to play a very important part in their community life. A busy 1985 to you all!



Talbot House, Poperinge

At the end of November 1985, Charles and Ivy Swan will be retiring as Honorary Staff, resident at the Old House. We would like the present successful basis of staffing to be developed. If anyone under the age of 60 years is interested in this important post please write to: The International Secretary, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT

Please Note

BRANCH ORDERS

1. Branches will know that the invoices for the *Point Three* orders are prepared and sent out in March so that the right orders can be despatched from April onwards. If you want to change the number of copies you require, please let us know as soon as possible.

2. A growing number of Branches (and individual subscribers) now contribute in whole or in part to the cost of posting their copies. Postal charges are now so high that these contributions are of the utmost value. Are you paying postage on your copies? Please examine your finances (and your consciences!) once again to see what you can do to help. Thanks.

Reduced to Clear -1985 Diaries

The diary has 20 pages of essential information for Toc H members and friends, including addresses, Ceremony of Light, a history of the Movement etc. New style this year.

Only 50p each, post free. Order now from: Toc H Publications, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Free Offer

Southend-on-Sea Men's Branch has two 16mm film projectors which it will happily pass on to any other Branch which has a use for them. Enquiries should go to Peter Bazeley, 27 Clifton Road, Ashingdon, Rochford, Essex. Tel: 0702-546627.

Welcome to Access Action

'Access Action' is the new quarterly newsletter of the Access Committee for England. Its focus is on issues of access to the environment for all handicapped people. The newsletter is circulated free to various local groups, and would be available to any Branches who are involved in this type of work. Apply direct to: Access Committee for England, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.

Round and about

Christmas at Bournemouth & Christchurch

Three members of the Bournemouth & Christchurch Branch, led by Ruth Collins, prepared a fine Christmas dinner for 20 members of the Retired Men's Club. After entertainment by the Winton Women's Guild hot mince pies and tea were served.

The annual coffee morning and mini-market was held on 1 December and raised £141. Carols were sung at four homes for the elderly and gifts distributed to residents and also to members of the jigsaw puzzle library and to recipients of the taped news service. The closing meeting of the year was 'Christmas Thoughts' by members.

Wendover Walk

John Colet School's sixth form have donated £300 to the work of Toc H, after a sponsored walk in the Autumn. Despite the teacher who forgot to pack the tent poles, and caused them to be a tent short, the sixth formers successfully completed the two day expedition along the 42 mile route along the Ridgeway. Six teachers and 26 pupils were in the party.

More help for Ethiopia

A bring and buy sale held at the Toc H room in Cosby, Leics, raised £240 for the Ethiopia appeal.

Christmas Shopping

In many parts of the country, Toc H members and volunteers regularly help with Christmas shopping trips for the elderly and handicapped. One such trip this year was Buckingham Branch, who turned out to help a pre-Christmas invasion of 'Woolies'.

42 Trinity Square Reunion

Sixteen former residents of '42' were recently reunited after a gap of 30 years. The venue was the Naval Club, in London, and Professor John Hobbs was in the chair. Hugh Tunbridge tells us that among the 16 was John Clark, from Canada, and that although they could not be present, contact was still maintained with Kiwi Cheyne (Bangladesh) John Daintree (Canada), Bill Pearce (Cornwall), and Giles Roche (Egypt). To no-one's surprise, Tubby featured largely in the anecdotes!

Winning streak

The Bangor Toc H Junior Rugby Club has now been unbeaten for over a year. On a recent tour of Leicester, they had two fine wins against a Hinckley side (43-0) and Old Newtonians (10-9).

50 years of books

After 50 years of running a library service at Oldham Royal Infirmary, the local Branch have now decided to close the service as it is no longer needed. Margaret Clegg, Branch secretary explained 'When Toc H started the service in the 1930s, people used to be in hospital much longer, and books were hard to come by unless you were well off. Also, Oldham Library did not allow its books to be taken into hospitals'. Things are very different now, and, as Margaret explained, many patients watch TV, while others bring in their own reading matter.

The Branch are now looking for another job to replace the library service, as well as their regular commitments to work in the community with the young, the old and the handicapped.

The Oldham District Health Authority has donated £200 as a 'thank-you' for a job well done.



Photo: The Buckingham Advertiser

Colne-Orwell Holiday

Dot Turner writes to tell us that in August, the members of Branches in Colne-Orwell District took it in turn to take out for the day some of the residents of the Hamilton Lodge Home for the mentally handicapped. The day trips included a visit to Clacton, to Felixstowe, and to the Zoo at Colchester, where this photograph was taken.



Photo: Pat Barber

50 years recorded

Netherton (M) Branch, in the Black Country, possesses a log of every Branch meeting of its 50 years of existence. Sam Monkton writes to tell us that they allocated five Branch meetings for a member to review ten years, and read out items of his own choice. *'As we listened to the actions and advice of Elder Brethren Laurie, Mark, Don, Ernie, Martin and others, the conclusion we reached was that the present Branch has changed little, with the same good fellowship still enjoyed by members.'*

One member of Netherton Branch, the Revd David Tonge, has recently been appointed a Chaplain to the Queen. David lives in Bromsgrove, but makes the 14 mile journey to Netherton whenever he can. David was a postman before entering the Ministry.

Spectacles abroad

Albert Fremlin-Bailey, the Agent-General for British and Overseas Optical Missions, writes to say a big 'thank you' to all the Toc H Branches which have sent spectacles either direct to Missions, or to him. He writes 'We are a poor crowd, but a happy one . . .' Over 1½ million spectacles have been sent abroad, plus equipment, and many Africans have been brought to the UK for teach-ins.

Albert recently visited Toc H in Paris. (See photo.)



Christmas News from Verden

The annual Christmas bazaar, ably directed by the ebullient Fred Mason, Warden of Toc H Verden, was held to raise money for Ethiopia and the School for the Deaf. Some 500 families were present and the sum of DM 1500 was raised.

Our picture shows Lady Anne Thorne, wife of the Commander 1st Armoured Division being met by Fred Mason.



Photo: Army Public Information

Sixty years in Wimborne

On 13 December 1924 the Wimborne Branch of Toc H was formed. Throughout the years the Branch has been an active force for good in the life of the town. A special service was held at St John's Church to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

The Branch padre, Rev Barry Lomax conducted the service and preached the sermon. He was assisted by the Rev Kenneth Bloxham, a President of Toc H. Padre Lomax based his remarks on 'I am the Light of the World'.

The service closed with The World Chain of Light when Padre Bloxham read the special message prepared by members from The Old House, Poperinge.



Earlier in the year the presence of Bill Higgins, the Town Crier of Cranborne and a member of Wimborne Branch, gave the annual autumn 'fayre' at the Toc H Centre, Ilford a rousing start. Fine weather, well stocked stalls and interesting competitions provided an excellent event which raised £279.

47 Francis Street

This year is the 25th anniversary of the move to Francis Street of the Catholic Central Library, who took over the building that was previously Toc H Headquarters. The Library is run by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement.

Remember the 5th November

Not because of Guy Fawkes, but in Bognor Toc H it is remembered as the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Toc H Rest Room, which has been providing a service to many pensioners over the years.

The job started when a local businessman passed through the station on a cold day and noticed a small group of elderly people huddled together in the concourse. On enquiry, he was told they gathered there each day to keep warm, as there was a radiator in the corner. He then approached Toc H who responded admirably. They had been seeking new premises, and the businessman offered them a suitable place on condition they furnished, and equipped it, and staffed it daily as a rest room for old people. They come for tea, and TV, but more important for warmth and fellowship.

The premises are now also used by the Society of Friends and the Friends of the Earth.

Sad End to a Concert

Thurrock Toc H's charity concert finished sadly when young thieves snatched £150 in takings from the foyer. The concert had been run to raise funds for two special ambulances for the handicapped. The artistes had all given their services free, and the Branch had also run a tombola stall to swell the proceeds. We send our sympathy and warm good wishes to Thurrock in their efforts to find alternative funds to keep their work going.

Toc H and NALGO (continued)

In our last issue we mentioned the criticisms levelled at NALGO by Doris Goodall, the organiser of the Wembley Toc H Blind Social Club. Since then we have heard from Danny McPherson, Hon Sec of the local branch of NALGO. He points out that the strike was called, not just by NALGO, but by all the Brent Council trade unions, in response to the Council's decision to cut £3m from the rest of the year's budget. He says they are planning cuts of £20m next year, and if they go ahead, that could mean no drivers or escorts for the Club at all. He suggests that the best thing voluntary organisations can do is to join with trade unions to rally support against ratecapping.

He also offers to raise, with his branch executive, the question of a donation to the Blind Club. Fairmindedness isn't always so easy, is it?

The Caring Gap

by Bill Bains

Historically, as a person entered Toc H, two members acted as sponsors, befriending the stranger. As questions were asked and answers given so fellowship and understanding grew. Some Branches would insist upon sessions with the Pilot who would insist on books to be read, with discussion to follow. These historical training roles are slipping away. Few sponsors and few Pilots are now in evidence. An indication of change, or simply a lack of caring and discipline? What is to replace that essential help with the first faltering steps into membership?

Sponsor and Pilot, important words that are becoming lost to the Toc H lexicon at

a time when they are most needed. Beyond the closet of the Branch are a growing number of young people who see themselves as being part of the Toc H family, and so many Branch members, so lovingly courted by a sponsorship that made them feel needed and important, now have a wonderful opportunity to sponsor those young people within their Districts. Officers of Branch and District could be set alongside those officers of the young groups so that matters concerned with administration and conduct of business could be explained by the experienced to the inexperienced. There is a need for us to open up, not only our hearts and minds to these young members, but also our homes — another traditional Toc H way of hospitality and fellowship allowing for a great deal of learning to take place informally.

This befriending of the young will lend them assurance that they are not part of some 'separate development' (surely a phrase to be deplored) that will only serve to strengthen the myth of the 'generation gap'. There is a body of knowledge about our Movement to be communicated to new members and we have a simple and direct way of achieving that by sponsorship and pilotage.

The most grievous loss would be that of the Pilot. This important role is one that generations of past membership never emphasised, simply because of their belief and intuition that it was in the character and personality of the person that the true Pilot was to be found, but this very lack of emphasis has not served Toc H well. The feeling that Pilots are born and not made has severely restricted the

•WHY CRIME?

In our issue of March 1984, Paul Rogoff, a Birmingham Probation Officer, gave his views on the origins of criminal behaviour. A year later we are happy to print a further contribution on this theme, from 'John', who has recently been paroled from Winson Green Prison.

I have found Mr Rogoff's article 'What Makes People Commit Crime' most interesting, especially as I have just spent a period 'inside' for the first time in a life span of over half a century.

His remarks on lack of a consistent childhood discipline are very appropriate — the operative word here is 'consistent'.

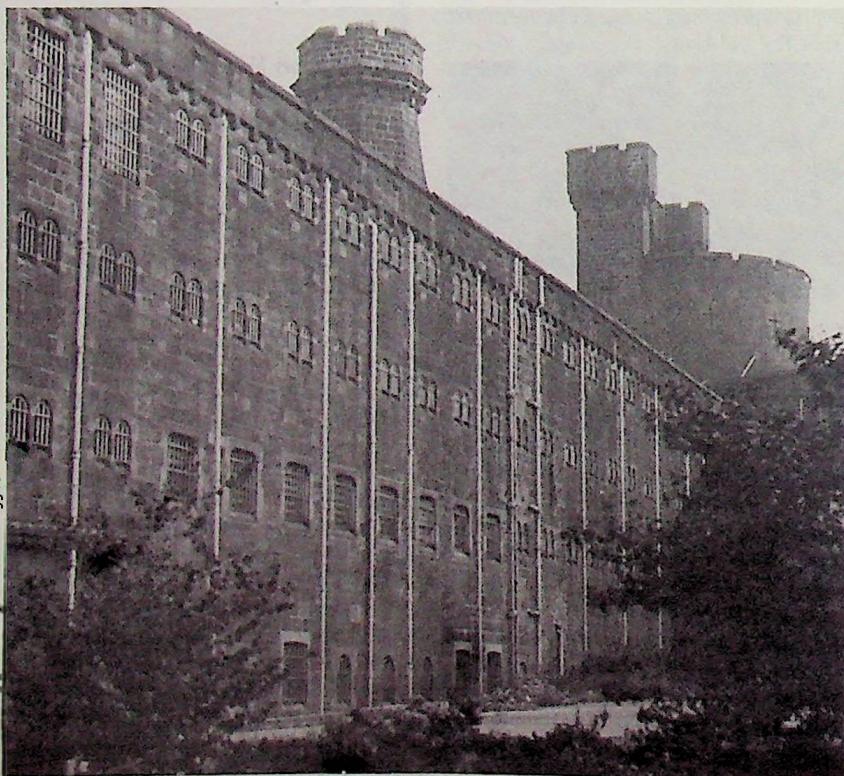
Many of the folk I got to know in prison,

and in particular the younger element, seemed to have led lives where home life had been disrupted by death, divorce or incompatibility of parents and even greatly fluctuating family finances. This seems to decry the quite popular belief that children, particularly young children, have an in-built resistance to these sort of events.

Modern society which is so built around material possessions (Thought: has society always been this way?) and the frustration of not being able to obtain these items seems to play a large part in the crime of theft. It is not that the items stolen have any special value in themselves for the thieves, but the thought that you have them and 'they haven't'.

You would be very surprised at the number of folk whom I met 'inside' who are really 'thinkers' of some depth and folk of quite strong character in other respects than their crime, and also how many have latent artistic talents — the picture painter — matchstick modellers and those with a genius for making items for their own comfort out of rubbish — sometimes comparatively trivial things for enlightening an otherwise spartan existence.

The ingenuity shown by some inmates to obtain or create privilege and comfort and indeed in the commissioning of their crime would amaze most law abiding folks. I am sure that if their talents were diverted to legal use in a modern industry the person would become an important member of the firm concerned. Usually however one finds that these folk did not do too well at school and have not



finding and encouragement of members to become Pilots.

Now is the time to give those Pilots we do have a wider mission and to encourage them to extend their role outward from the Branch to embrace the younger groups, seeing to their education and training, seeking the right people to act as sponsors, and holding group sessions with those sponsors. We must seek the new generation of Pilots — those special members with the capacity to build right relationships between different people and people with differences; those with the gift for interpretation, with the keys to the Kingdom.

'The Way Forward' was a timely reminder of the central role of Toc H as being a Christian ministry. It is a way of openness and unconditional friendship that should not be seen in the exclusiveness of 'separate development' but in the inclusiveness of Christian family life.

obtained the so-called essential A or O levels most employers require because they represent today's 'standards of intelligence' — or do they?

I know many men who would have achieved far more scholastically in the 30s and 40s before the more permissive educational system became vogue.

You see, we, the general public, have no time for the child or person who is different from the standards we set as 'norm'. We are too busy to give the individualistic young person the chance to use his individuality for our general good. Unless he is classed as 'handicapped' he is an outcast and then, in his frustration to outlet his genius, often turns to crime. It is not the actual theft of, say, your motor car, TV, video or what have you that counts to him — it is the ability to achieve the theft by his ingenuity and to be able to get his own back on society by proving that he is a better man than you because he can relieve you of your property any time he feels like it. Thus the crime of theft is often committed. The offence of violence is usually born of frustration also. The strong ruling the weak is a crime from time immemorial. Casual violence is usually the result of the lack of ability to communicate — again often a crime of someone who is illiterate (and I've met fellows in their 20s and 30s who could not write a simple letter home — nor read one). Violence in the furtherance of theft is usually from fear of being found out, and in the gang form is a means of showing off — how strong 'we' are and how different 'we' are. Most violent people are individually and alone quite reserved, shy and inadequate. They would

Alexandra Rose Day

1984 provided an increase in our income available for local work from this source. However, it is clear that some Toc H units taking part still do not adequately cover the area of their responsibility by looking outside themselves for help in collecting for what is, in effect, the only Toc H Flag Day. If you are taking part please:

- (a) Make sure all organisations who benefit by the work of Toc H lend a hand.
- (b) Think in terms of door to door collections leading up to Alexandra Rose Day itself as well as a collection on the day.
- (c) Remember that 87½% of the amount collected is available for local work. Is there new work which needs funding? It is International Year of Youth so do the young need help or can the young help you to help others?

Note: The Alexandra Rose Day organisers need to cover some vacant areas. If your unit can offer to support the scheme wholeheartedly, please enquire about the possibilities through Keith Rea at Headquarters.

(Editor's Note: Another way in which Branches can raise money through association with Alexandra Rose Day is by participation in the annual Rose Ball Raffle. A letter in this month's Open Forum from Agnes Cook gives more details.)

love to join the simple pleasure of the Alphabet game at your church social if they could be convinced that they would be accepted. As proof, consider those who have been put into Community Service to the elderly and handicapped and the special care and attention they have shown to their charges. Have you ever seen a 'lifer' — usually a murderer — playing 'Ring-a-Roses' with handicapped kids — and enjoying it — protecting them against accidental injury — probably because the children involved show their affection and esteem for the man concerned and that is his reward? I have met muggers whose closest correspondent has been a grandparent, and myself I had the honour to become a friend to several younger people inside who just needed someone older that they could talk to and who would listen. One young fellow — quite a 'hardened' criminal (what a horrible expression) who could have knocked me down with a single movement of his hand — responded very timidly to my 'box round the ears' for his truculent attitude to a member of the prison staff. He told me later that no-one at home had ever bothered to do that — because no-one cared! — enough said!

Drug taking is of course a method of escapism. Sex crimes are crimes of frustration — both these causes are obvious — both from a basis of people who are unable to 'communicate'. Many of these are crimes of the so-called elite society of the Western World and have a lesser consequence to the criminal Eastern World. Whether the West or the East has the correct attitude to these type of offences is another long and complicated subject. However, those who choose to live in the West or East must

abide by the rules of that society — 'When in Rome do as the Romans do'.

There are always society's 'bloody nuisances' and petty criminal for whom a short sharp sentence is the cure to their anti-social behaviour — the football hooligan etc — but to the hardened criminal prison is no deterrent.

I believe it costs nearly £170 per week to keep a man in prison, plus court costs etc. The daily coach that takes men to and from Winson Green to the courts in the city is reputed to cost £70 per journey each way!

There are folk who enjoy prison life — not the down-and-out types only — but others too — because in prison they are someone. Out here they miss the company (so have I since I've been home but I'm not going back) and they have no-one and nothing, but it is obvious that prison is not going to solve crime — public shaming, opportunity to use talents, responsibility, a sense of being needed, perhaps by someone, an outlet for this frustration for people who can't control them — some or all of these things may reduce crime but just to lock a man away for a period of time solves nothing. It may make him frightened to do the same thing again, (but it will not say he won't do it).

Prison is surely a non-curative luxury that tax payers can't afford.

So what is the answer? — I don't know — I haven't the experience, ability or power to go into it as deeply as I would like, but perhaps you have. How about it?

'John'

Forthcoming Events



kinderfest

at the
midsummer
festival

cuddesdon house
22-23 June 1985

Children — there is something for everyone at the Midsummer Festival — and that of course includes you! We have a special programme of events including . . .

Music Storytelling
Games/Sports Puppets
Craft Prizes
Songs Competitions
Dance Entertainment
and lots more!

'GET YOUR FAMILIES TO
COME SO YOU CAN COME
AND JOIN THE FUN!'

Watch this space for further details

Parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles, show this to the children.



CALLING
ALL
CHILDREN!



TOC H
1985

MARA
FUN

North London District Presents for all
Branches, Groups and Volunteers

A Festival Activity on
SUNDAY, 16 June at
Trent Park, Cockfosters, Barnet,
North London

300 yards from the Underground
Station Cockfosters, Piccadilly Line.
Mass start at 11 am.

Details from:
Gilles Cabon, 113 Avenell Road,
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Wheatley, Oxon.



Photo: Sussex Express

Seaford Toc H raised more than £400 for the local Save the Children Ethiopian Fund at a Christmas Bazaar.



Photo: Accrington Observer

Cracker-time at Accrington's annual Christmas party for
housebound and elderly people. This annual event caters for
some 70 people, who each get a personalised, home-made
cracker as well as other gifts.

The Wider Family

by Keith Rea

Australia

Plans are afoot to celebrate next May the Golden Jubilee in Canberra and in December Tubby's Centenary will be marked by starting the World Chain of Light from his birthplace, Maryborough in Queensland.

At the other end of the age scale it is good to hear that St Paul's School Branch, Brisbane, are busy with Telethons, Whalie-a-thon and organising Tapes of Care and Happiness!

Our photograph is of Ray Lakeman with one of the boys at Victor Harbor Toc H Camp. Ray lost both hands and forearms in a circular saw accident when he was five. He has had many challenges to face while growing up and settling into the business world. However, while he has no hands, he is in no way handicapped. He has a very positive attitude towards himself and life. He is a happily married man, has two beautiful children, is a handy-man around the home, writes



types, has completed University studies and gained a B Sc and Dip Ed and is a qualified teacher. Ray ran the Camp at Victor Harbor early in 1982, and last year was in charge of a Camp for disabled children. Interestingly, he said he does not want to run another camp for disabled children, but would be happy to take charge of another camp for ordinary children.



South Africa

Some time ago we reported on 'Paballo ya Batsope' founded by Toc H members to provide sustenance to pensioners who have to queue long hours in Soweto to collect their pensions. The organisation has flourished and has just been given a Mobile Kitchen by South African Breweries.

The Volunteers to go to South Africa for three months this summer have now been selected, they are:

Sarah Husband (Hereford)
Malcolm Jackson (Basingstoke)
Thelma Jackson (Birmingham)
Peter Ranken (Weybridge)
Julia Sivyer (Redditch)

Led by John Dickson they have the task of helping Toc H in South Africa develop

their Projects programme. They will visit all centres of membership in a vehicle provided by Toc H South Africa called 'The Ugly Truckling'. Please pray for the success of their work which hopefully will develop into a yearly exchange between us and South Africa.

Unhappily the growth of the new Toc H National Centre has been dogged by tragedy. Dennis Etheridge, who was mainly responsible for its acquisition, has had a heart attack and is ordered to rest. Worse, Muriel Miller the courageous wife of Bob, Chairman of Toc H Transvaal, died suddenly having, with her husband, given up a lovely home to act as site managers at the new Centre. May this sacrifice and dedication be rewarded by a fitting tribute - a Centre which will inspire all who go there.

Across the continent we were pleased to get some news of Bill Brown (late of the NW Region who is seen on the photograph with visitor from Crediton, Enid Keast). Enid tells us she was made very welcome at Subiaco Ladies and immediately felt at home and was impressed by the 'personal' work carried out by the members.

Talbot House

There in our quiet Upper Room members from Popinge and England completed the prayer circle round the world keeping their Vigil in various ways and in various languages. We were happy to play a small part in the big scheme of things organised by our Belgian family. Perhaps a tradition of 24 hour Vigils from our Birthplace has been reborn, both ecumenical and bi-lingual. It is obviously of the very essence of our Family at its best.

Zimbabwe

Marondera Branch have long been involved in the town 'Home for the Aged'. Last year the House acquired a small farm to help its self-sufficiency. Hearing that the elderly in the home were really unable to do the manual work required, the boys from Peterhouse Boarding School have been volunteered through a Toc H initiative and are eager to help. Other schools are being approached and the farm could prove a wonderful project.

India

For the first time for years the Toc H India magazine 'The Lamp' has been printed. May we hope that the editor Professor Joseph will get the full support of members so that the magazine may play its part in reviving Toc H in India. In my opinion a national magazine is essential in countries where vast distances separate members and units.

The University of the Third Age

by Elizabeth Davies

Do long days confined to the house bother you? If so, why not find out about the University of the Third Age? This was my exciting discovery early in 1984, when I found I could give myself permission to spend hours on favourite hobbies — reading and discussing — as part of a group in someone's house — and feel at the same time: 'This helps one live longer — and it's fun — and it helps others too'.

I had met a doctor, near retirement, who knew full well that it is mental stimulus that keeps the elderly from degenerating. It was this doctor who started the movement here. I began to enquire around. 'Yes', would often be the answer. 'I'd like to listen to music in a group' or 'I do enjoy looking at local buildings. Could we find out more about the town?' — or 'Let's brush up our French . . . can we find a teacher?'

We finally formed a branch at the end of October 1984 and quickly settled into a pattern of eight study groups, mostly meeting fortnightly in members' homes. To link us all together, there is a monthly

meeting with a speaker (one of us) followed by questions and discussion. We had help all along from the National Organiser, Dianne Norton, 6 Parkside Gardens, London SW9 5EY. She gave us advice and support, and we actually used an information pack, designed by U3A for this purpose.

There are groups starting up all over the country. So many in active retirement have given years of service. How right that all should now be allowed time to learn, to explore and develop.

Some will murmur that there is already enough educational provision for the retired, but U3A is proving energetically that we do have needs not otherwise being met. U3A gives such freedom. Someone volunteers to lead. Members decide on the curriculum — often choosing topics from week to week. We decide when to meet, in whose house, or whether to pay anything?

Here in Abergavenny, 35 people have so far attended one or more meetings of study groups or the branch. Subjects

being followed are: art appreciation, music, poetry, French conversation, literature, science and religion and health monitoring. To these it is hoped to add media studies in the New Year. In the case of art appreciation, the leader (a retired professor) uses works in his own collection as study material. The health monitoring group has guidance from a practising doctor, who, as an example, devoted one session to an analysis of the memory process.

There is a great deal of variety from one branch to another. For the U3A principle is one of self-help. Cambridge learning from the movement in France, tried out this principle of self-help study groups in 1982 and found it worked. People of all ages, particularly older adults, need to understand that it is never too old to learn. U3As are also looking for ways to bring activities to the housebound.

The University of the Third Age may sound rather forbidding, but it is doing wonders for people with time on their hands. It is not a panacea, but it does fill one with excitement. It exists in 160 countries, including most of Europe, and it makes sense. Eric Midwinter, pioneer of community education and now Director for Policy on Ageing asks: 'Who believes that all we need to know to live as old people can be instilled into us 40 or 50 years before we reach that stage of life?'

Southern Region Sponsored 'Knit-In'

by Carol Button

We have a separate fund in this Region called the 'Projects and Extension Fund'. It was set up a few years ago to provide a 'shortfall' for Support Groups when a summer project was unable to meet its budget and to provide support if Branches needed more finance to get some extension work started in their own community.

More recently it has been used to help fund weekend projects for youth groups within the Region which have taken place approximately once each month. These weekends usually provide some form of service within the community and are of an on-going nature in that the Groups are often invited back by the hosts to repeat the weekends. The fund also donates money to the Regional Family Purse to assist with the Regional Budget in recognition of the time and cost of participation of Regional Staff.



However, as the fund has been used fairly extensively and very little put back, it was agreed to hold a sponsored 'Knit-in'. Whilst increasing the fund we could all have some fun doing so. And so, during the week commencing 28 October 1984, we had 23 Branches and six youth groups all over the Region knitting away in all different shapes and sizes of what were 'supposed' to be blanket squares. Some in fact did turn out as such and will be made up into blankets for Old People's Homes in places like Newbury, Parkstone and Wimborne and some will be going towards the Ethiopian Appeal.

Needless to say there were some variations. One shape 'designed' by one of the youth group helping Greathouse

Cheshire Home looked more like a map of the British Isles (she thought she had to decrease at the end of each row!). At Newbury the Branch and youth group joined forces in the town to display their talents and gain sponsorship. However, when the long term volunteer Donna Gibbs realised she couldn't knit, she soon got the shoppers to do the knitting for her — who else would have the cheek?!

Obviously there has been a lot of fun and friendship doing the 'knit-in' and it has raised £1,350 approximately for the Projects and Extension Fund. This in turn will mean that more weekend projects and more extension work can take place in this Region.

Welcome

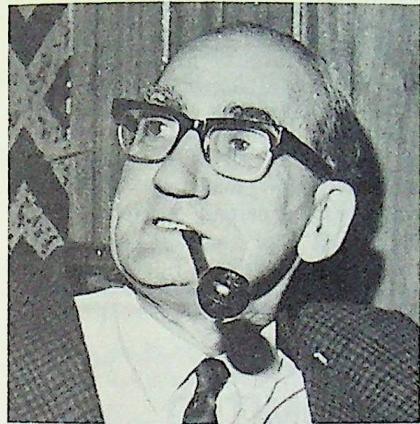
The following new members were registered during December:

Alfreton (M)
Mark A Bearder
Alloa (J)
Miss Lesley Ann Reynolds
Barton-on-Humber (J)
Reginald Osborne
Brighton (W)
Mrs Violet Austen
Cosby (M)
Douglas Gordon Smith
Fareham (J)
Leslie Charles Peters
Goring-by-Sea (M)
Percival Wilfred Bird
W J Lee-Morrison
Great Harwood (M)
Eric Normington
Levenmouth (J)
Mrs Christina Johnstone

North Ormesby (J) Group
Mrs Joan Mary Vickers
Oatlands (M)
Bertram Cyril Headland
John Smith
Owton Manor (W)
Mrs Janet Dixon
Sandown/Shanklin (J)
Mrs Lilian Florence Lidington
Strode Park & Herne (J)
Miss Eleanor Barnard
Miss Madeline Janet Parris
Miss Evonne Philpott
Trimley (W)
Mrs Barbara Joan Herod
Uckfield (M)
Cyril Charles Ledingham
Dennis John Steer
Wednesfield (J)
Mrs Christine Perkins
Wessex District
Mrs Jillian Rose
Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale
Miss Mandy Caley District
Wolverton (M)
Derek Tolmie

A warm welcome to 25 new members

Farewell



at the end of February to George Lee, who has been a member of staff for 34 years. After 18 months of training (things have changed since!) he was posted to Manchester where he was much involved in the early development of the Manchester Childrens' Camp. He then spent three years with Toc H Australia, returning in 1959 to Lincolnshire as an Area Secretary. His final and longest posting was to Birmingham, where he was instrumental in initiating the well loved Cotswold Festivals, the Birmingham Outward Group and the new work at Weirside. George will be greatly missed as a fine example of a Toc H staff member, and as a personal friend to many, but we hope we shall still see plenty of him.

easter teasers

Answers in the next issue . . . No prizes!

1. How is Easter linked with Roggeveen?
2. Where, in 644 AD did the British Church finally decide that Easter should fall on a Sunday?
3. On how many different days can Easter fall?
4. How is Pulsatilla Vulgaris better known?
5. In which country was there a severe earthquake on Easter Day 1979?
6. Which British boxer won a world title fight on Easter Tuesday 1979?
7. Who wrote:
'Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.'?
8. What was the name of the Anglo-Saxon Goddess from whom we probably derive the word Easter?
9. In what book in the Bible is the only reference to Easter?
10. Complete the old proverb:
'Rain on Good Friday and Easter Day,
A good year for . . . and a bad year for . . .'

to Karen Briggs, who has been appointed as a long term volunteer in the South Eastern Region. She will be working with Win Ward and Tracy Hammond in Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Congratulations!

to Violet Turner, Secretary of Twydall Joint Branch who celebrated her 90th birthday in December, after over 40 years in membership.

to Martyn and Yvonne Barrett, who were married in November and also to Steve Cole and Liz Tooms, who are to be married in February. Both couples have led holidays for disadvantaged children and are members of the Market Harborough Volunteer Group.



to Rev David Tonge, Vicar of Finstall, near Bromsgrove, who has been appointed a chaplain to the Queen. David is a member of Netherton Branch in the West Midlands.

to Derrick Neal, of Peterborough Men's Branch who was awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours for his work as chauffeur to the Bishops of Peterborough.

Toc H Staff

Readers are reminded that, from time to time, the Movement seeks new members of the full-time staff. In particular, we often seek people who might consider working for Toc H in a residential situation. We have a number of Conference and Training Centres that need staffing (see back cover of November *Point Three*), we have Services Clubs in BAOR which need workers, and from time to time we use staff to head-up small residential communities, which we call 'Community Houses'.

If readers themselves have an interest in any of these, or know of anyone, of either sex, who might be interested, more details of this type of post can be made available. Write to the General Secretary, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Open Forum

Festival Challenge

'Get to the Cuddesdon Festival in the most unusual way!' These were the instructions we received from Mandy Caley. 'The important thing is that everyone participates,' she said.

"Why don't we go on roller-skates?" enthused one group. Someone else wanted to know where they could get a tank from. But the majority of people there remained silent. Some people were too old or too unfit to travel many miles on roller-skates. Others approved of the ideas but kept quiet, not wishing to impose on someone else's plans. And I thought to myself, 'Come on, you Southerners, where's your team spirit?' Our first priority was to ensure that everyone was involved, Branches, Groups, both old and young.

How was everyone going to participate, so that we all arrived at Cuddesdon together? The answer was simple: A 'Southern Region Travelling Carnival'.

This way, the enthusiasts among us could travel on roller-skates and those of us who are slightly less energetic could sit in a car or on the back of a lorry. All we would have to do would be to smile and enjoy ourselves. What could be more simple?

Each Branch, Group and District has been asked to come up with and carry out their own ideas. I will then act as the

'Challenge Co-ordinator' and organise a route, commencing in the most southern part of our Region — probably Weymouth — and working its way through the Region until it reaches Cuddesdon. People will be able to join our Carnival at points along the way, and then the full procession will make its way to the Festival.

Of course, it hasn't all been finalised. I haven't asked the police/council for their permission yet, but I am very optimistic that we will succeed in our aim to attract even more people, of all ages, to the Mid-summer Festival.

If it can be done, then our Region will do it — we are going to participate in the true sense of the word. I hope other Regions will participate with the same enthusiasm!

Donna Gibbs
LTV Southern Region

The New Director

I was recently talking to one of our older members about the vacant position of Director. We agreed that both of us have never been happy with the title of Director. It has too strong a connection with the industrial and commercial worlds, and does not belong to a charitable organisation. What he suggested was 'Pilot' in place of Director, thinking of the marine pilot who is at the

helm of the ship and keeping it on course. Also in favour of Pilot, which is one of the oldest Toc H offices, is that we think it is unique. I must admit I cannot think of a better title.

Derek Brown
Par. Cornwall

Violence on Picket Lines

The Government has a right and a duty to defend our democratic system which is wisely copied throughout the free world. At home the civil police are the only means possible without resorting to the use of force as is the case with the semi-coercive system in Northern Ireland. Long may it remain that peaceful protest and democracy survive above and at the expense of violence. Abraham Lincoln said in 1856 'The ballot box is stronger than the bullet'. This would still seem to apply in this country in the 1980s. When the country had the chance to change the Government in 1983 the change was rejected and the Conservative Government was re-elected. Part of the manifesto on which it was elected was the strengthening of trade union legislation and the return to profit, if at all possible, of all of the state owned industries. Now that these policies are being enacted certain quarters see their only way of protest as violent confrontation with the rule of law in the

'...on the Ordination of Women'

Did the woman say
when she held him for the first time
in the dark of a stable,
after the pain and bleeding and the
crying,
'This is my body, this is my blood'?

Did the woman say
when she held him for the last time
in the dark on a hilltop,
after the pain and bleeding and the
dying,
'This is my body, this is my blood'?

Well that she said it to him then,
for dry old men,
brocaded robes belying barrenness,
ordain that she not say it for him
now.

(Attributed to a 17th Century Roman Catholic priest)

Published in 'Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry' by The British Council of Churches.

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Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

form of the police.

These violent confrontations are not initiated by the police. The police respond to a situation as it arises (you do not see police where there are no pickets) using only as much force as is reasonable at the time in order to restore the Queen's Peace and to allow the free passage along any highway of any person requiring its use. To do this the police use laws that have been in force some time and have nothing to do with this so-called 'anti-miner Government'. In fact, the laws passed by this administration are mainly for the use of the civil courts and not the criminal courts. As for a 'National Police Force under the central direction of New Scotland Yard whose chief is Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary' as cited by Derek Brown (in December 'Open Forum') nothing of this sort exists. One of the responsibilities of any Home Secretary is the Police Forces of England and Wales but he is directly responsible only for the Metropolitan Police whose headquarters are New Scotland Yard. There are 43 separate police forces each under the control of a separate Chief Constable who is answerable to a police committee which is elected locally.

DR
West Midlands

(The writer is a police officer who has been on picket control duty in Yorkshire.)

Day Conference

I am writing on behalf of Ilford Women's Branch to thank HQ for arranging the Day Conference at Romford in November. It was a splendid occasion and we came away feeling confident about the future of our Movement.

An idea - Branches may not have any young members but why not sponsor a project in 1985? After all, they are doing the jobs we used to do when we had more energy. Ilford Women have already sponsored a project for this year.

Spreading Toc H - We have a 'pop-in' on the third Thursday each month. District members come and keep in touch with what is going on; we also invite our Asian colleagues from the office next door and friends from the Salvation Army. From noon until 1 pm it is chat and food. At 1 pm someone introduces a topic and then everyone gives their view. Even the shy ones are now boldly giving forth. The standard charge is 50p. There are no raffles or any other money raising efforts. Just a friendly get together.

Mrs Elsie Wickett
Ilford

Alexandra Rose Ball Raffle

There are many Branches who are anxious to raise money for the Family

Purse within each Region and we in the Cardiff Joint Branch use this way to provide the money very easily. We transferred to the Raffle when we found that it was difficult for many of us to sell the Alexandra Rose flags in the Town Centre or in other parts of South Wales around Cardiff.

We apply for 50 books of tickets in the Autumn (the minimum order is 20) and these are posted to us early in February - the Raffle takes place in early May. Each book is made up of ten tickets each worth 10p. As a return for sending back the dockets we receive £45 during the summer. There are many prizes and details of the winners are sent to us.

Whilst I understand there are people who do not agree with raffles, there are many who are prepared to give towards a good cause without thinking about a possible prize. I do recommend this way of raising money for the Branch and it is well worth considering.

The address to write to is:
Alexandra Rose Day, 1 Castlenau, Barnes, London SW13 9RP.

Agnes Cook
Cardiff

(Editor's Note: Please see also the item about Alexandra Rose Day collections elsewhere in this issue.)

Photocopier Offer

DATABASE LTD are offering a good bargain on photocopiers which Branches might like to consider. For a three year period, they will provide photocopiers rent free, for an installation fee of £50 (plus delivery) and a charge of 3p per copy. More details available from the Editor.



Who says they cannot afford the Orient Express? Joanne Kerfoot enjoying herself at the summer garden party held by Leigh Toc H.

Priorities for Aid

Introduction:

As regular readers of *Point Three* will know, our issue of April 1984 launched an appeal to collect money, in soon-to-be-obsolete halfpennies, for a project in Bangladesh. Peter East, on his early retirement from the staff, went to live in a village in Bangladesh, and wrote to us about the urgent needs of both young and old in the locality. *Point Three* in November carried more details of the ways in which the money sent will help old people, and in April's edition Peter outlined the way in which students would be helped with the cost of their education.

The School Project:

In addition to these appeals, Peter has told us of the acute need for a larger school. In May he wrote: 'There is a shortage of schools. The government staff them but the local people have to build them and the biggest cost is the land. There is a primary school I'm associated with. It's a one storey building, five classrooms and an office. They have 700 students in two shifts, ie 350 a shift. Each class has between 50-90 students, looking rather like sardines. And there are 300 children on the waiting list. When the village school committee built the school they had the foresight to build the foundations to take another floor. The cost of the second storey, giving another six classrooms, would be £6,000. The local committee, at least the two chaps who work in England, can raise £2,000. The rest of the committee, although clearly dedicated, are too poor to make a contribution. So, for another £4,000 the 300 children on the waiting list could go to school. The bargain of the year at £13 a head! At least 10% of these children are sons and daughters of tea garden labourers, or rickshaw pullers'. This appeal was shared with the Toc H Central Executive who immediately, and unanimously, took the line that we must help. It felt that people would undoubtedly subscribe to this kind of appeal over a period of time, and that Toc H should immediately underwrite the appeal. The money has been sent to Peter, and the Bangladesh Government has agreed to provide the extra teachers. In July Peter wrote 'The primary school extension is also going well, in spite of the rains, and we hope it will be finished on time. Mr Harun and I go every day, and get soaked, to show our solidarity with the workers'. Even heavier rain since has slowed down the work, but it still progresses.

The Appeal:

The CEC felt that, in view of the nature of this project, we should seek financial help from some of the Aid charities. Amongst those approached was Christian Aid. After thorough discussion, Christian Aid decided they would not support this work. We print here a full extract from their final letter, not in any sense as a grumble, but to share with readers — many of whom undoubtedly give, and collect for, Christian Aid — an insight into the sorts of priorities that Christian Aid works to in deciding where to use its funds. We have no doubt that many members will fully appreciate, as Peter himself did, the reasoning behind the decision, and will be interested to know the thinking that directs the spending of the money that is given.

In a letter to Keith Rea, our International Secretary, the Christian Aid Assistant Projects Officer, Justin Phipps, wrote: 'Committee members felt that they had to reaffirm Christian Aid's general policy of not supporting primary schools and could not make an exception in this case. They fully appreciated the need for extra educational facilities in a country such as Bangladesh, but felt that it was unrealistic for small non-Governmental organisations, such as Christian Aid, to attempt to cover the shortfall in the facilities provided by the Bangladesh Government, with their own limited resources.

'Given the range of demands placed on its limited funds, Christian Aid has had to draw up a list of priority areas for funding. Over the last ten to 15 years we have gained in experience and learnt some lessons about the ways in which we can use our funds most effectively. We have gradually come to the general conclusion that programmes of a non-institutional type (village health worker schemes, saving societies, agricultural extension work — to name just a few) can be a more effective way of reaching the poorest people than comparable institutional ones; and perhaps offer the best chance of achieving a lasting change in the latter's lives.

'We have generally found that more funds (though still very inadequate) are available, from both Governments and Missions, for primary education, than for many other programmes which directly help the poorest of the poor. We try to support schemes which address the central issues determining poverty: such as ownership of land, availability of work, high interest rates etc — which are usually

the result of political and economic factors. The danger of a scheme for a primary school, if it is taken in isolation and not linked to other programmes for the poor, is that it can end up benefitting the relatively better-off families who can afford to send their children to school. Again and again we come across situations where poor children are either not enrolled in primary schools, or else they drop out very soon, because they are needed to work and provide income for the family.

Christian Aid has therefore tended in recent years to lay stress on projects which improve the bargaining power of the poor, or directly increase their productive/income-earning capacity. We do fund many training projects as well, but try to ensure that these will benefit whole communities, rather than enabling a simple individual (and his/her family) to advance their position in society.

'Committee members also expressed some doubts about the idea of support for a school building. I think it was their view that the crucial factors affecting the quality of education have more to do with the syllabus, educational materials and abilities of the teachers concerned, than with the actual building where lessons take place. Buildings tend to require relatively large sums of money. Christian Aid therefore usually feels that its money is better spent on programmes of a non-institutional kind.

'I am sorry that I have to write such a negative letter, and I realise how disappointed you will be by our Committee's decision. I can only say that in our work we have to try to identify general priority areas for our funds; otherwise our task would become impossible. In keeping to these priorities we are not necessarily passing judgment on work which lies outside them, we are merely trying to use our limited funds to best effect.'

The Reply:

Peter himself replies 'As for Christian Aid I have no argument with their general policy. In fact the views of their committee would be very useful to anyone not already working in a Bangladesh village. However they point out the dangers of a scheme for a primary school not linked to other programmes for the poor. So they are not referring to our project because our school is part of our wider work with the very poor landless people here. While I agree it

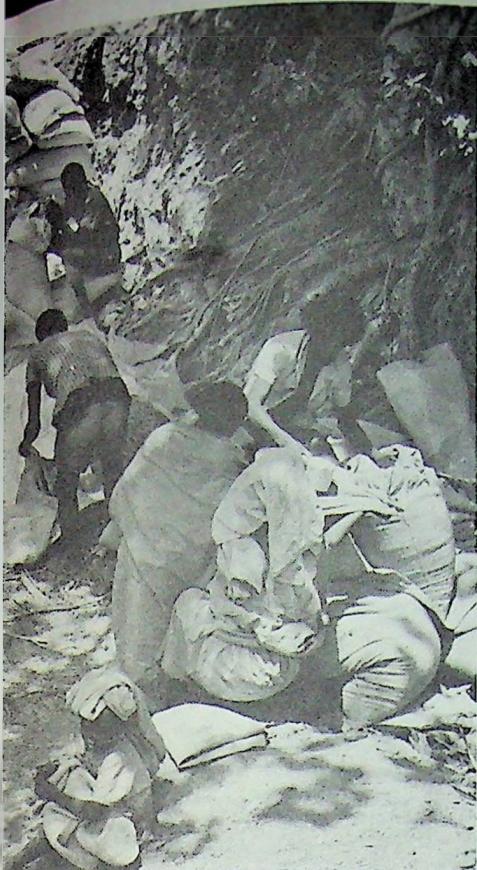


Photo: Christian Aid

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In November

Ronald Frederick Freeman (Harlow)

In December

Alfred Leslie Sullivan (Southampton

District)

John H 'Taff' Evans (Rhiwbina)

William David Chapman (Huddersfield)

Miss Helen B Hill (Westminster)

John Michael Carey (Denton)

Mrs Elizabeth Estes (Bedford)

Mrs Dorothy Lily 'Dolly' Lewis

(Newport-Gwent)

In January

Leslie Victor West (Bognor Regis)

Graham John Davies (Thurrock)

Mrs Doris Bessie Webber (Poole)

Mrs Violet Susie Mills (Weymouth)

Mrs Emily L Croft (Weymouth)

Des Ellis writes to tell us of the death of Les Williams in November. Les was a member of Saltash Branch until its closure in 1983. He did sterling work for Saltash over the years, and was one of its first members.

We are sad to report the death of Winifred Salt, of Birmingham, who died, aged 99, on Christmas Day. Winifred had been a Toc H Builder for 30 years.

Arthur Smith writes of John Carey who died in December: 'John was severely physically handicapped, but a more active

Christian it would be difficult to meet. A devout Roman Catholic he had made many pilgrimages to Lourdes and various retreats. He had that spirituality which is difficult to define, but having met him you carried it with you after the first meeting. He will be missed by his many friends.'

John Pickard writes of 'Taff Evans' 'He was one of our most regular and faithful members of the Branch over 36 years and will be sorely missed by many in Glamorgan District'.

Leslie West, of Bognor Regis Joint Branch, and formerly of Chichester Branch, died in January, after spending all his life in service to the community. As a schoolmaster, and a Scoutmaster, he gave service to youth and in his later years, as a devoted member of Toc H, he served the elderly. He gave invaluable help in the establishment and maintenance of the Bognor Regis Old Folks Rest Room project, which recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee.

He is sadly missed.

Rodney Hogben writes to tell us of the death of Moses Wheatley in December, a former member of Lewes and Haywards Heath Branches. Moses was 92, and had been a cavalryman in the First World War.

We give thanks for their lives



Photo: Louth Standard

For the second year running Louth Branch have presented a seat to an old people's 'group dwelling'. This year's seat was in memory of Fred Crosby, and the picture shows the Council Chairman receiving the seat.

would be a good thing if one could improve the national primary school syllabus, in the meantime it's not a bad thing to be teaching 1,000 children to read, write, count, etc plus lessons on hygiene and nutrition. As for the need of the building, apart from schooling, it's been a flood relief centre, and is regularly used for community meetings'.

There are, of course, many issues raised in this whole project — it is only natural that those of us who know Peter, and trust his judgment, feel convinced that his perspective is entirely valid, but it is also right that large national charities, such as Christian Aid, do develop coherent guidelines for their spending, and stay within them, and share their thinking widely. We are grateful to Christian Aid for such a full reply, and, at the same time, can be immensely proud of what Peter is doing in Bangladesh.

Footnotes

1. John Burgess, a staff member, has recently visited Peter in Bangladesh and in a future issue we hope to carry a more detailed report of the work that Peter is doing and the life he is living.

2. We are glad to be able to report that the Peter East appeal has already received over £7,000, mainly from individuals and Branches. This is to be shared between the various projects and it is clear the CEC's confidence has been fully justified.

Summer Projects 1985

Volunteers are required to help with over 50 residential work projects this summer. The full list of these projects, and applications details, are available from Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. We print here some extracts from this booklet. The fee is the basic registration fee of £5 unless a larger fee is mentioned.

42. 'HILL SKILLS' ADVENTURE HOLIDAY: LLANARMON-YN-IAL, CLWYD

August 17-24 Min age 18

A tented camp with meals provided in nearby Branch room. Rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, caving, pony trekking, etc. are some of the activities 16 deprived children, aged 10-16, of whom should be qualified to be leaders in the week.

12. FAMILY PROJECT AT LECKHAMPTON COURT: CHELTENHAM

July 25 - August 3 Min age 16 (unless coming with parents) Cost £7.50 (incl registration)

The work on this project will be the same as the Easter project above. As well as single volunteers, we would like to access to a caravan site nearby at which the day we will organise a creche. We can do some digging. We the (a) Families (b) Families

24. RIDE NAGS ROUNDABOUT

August 3-10

If you have stamina, a zany sense of humour, willing ability to get on with people aged 6-96 years old, the activities, including pantomime horse race tea party for children, Boggit

5. DUNSTABLE NEEDS YOU!

August 3-18 Min age 18

Downside Estate once again plays host to an 'old conflict'. A 'commando squad' of eight local Community Centre, to 'further the advance' of 32 more weekend in

July 24 - August 14 (inclusive)

We are running a playscheme in Berlin this year addition to working with the children, you will know this fascinating divided city. Berlin is expensive money is advised. You must also come from Iron Curtain countries

30. 'SEAGULLS' ACTIVITIES WEEK: JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS

August 24-31 Min age 16

The Seagulls are one of our young Toc H Groups who will act as your hosts for a week of sun and fun with local children. Some will be deprived, others may be handicapped - all will need your love and attention. Accommodation will be in the St Helier Toc H Centre. SB.

1. NOT JUST CONSERVATION April 26-28 HENMAN BASE CAMP, DORKING

June 28 - July 6 HUNTER BASE CAMP, HASLEMERE

Min age 18

This project follows in the footsteps of a successful pilot scheme last year. If you have never done conservation work or worked with mentally handicapped adults, this is a great chance. We need a group of six volunteers to work with mentally handicapped volunteers. Have a go at 'chopping wood' but great fun. The whole group will work as a team and be stimulating as well as socialising together when

25. 'CARE AND SHARE' HOLIDAY: HENGRAVE SUFFOLK

September 13-20 Min age 18

Hands, legs and hearts are needed in full measure for this week to enable us to provide of physically handicapped adults a holiday in beautiful, peaceful 17th century Manor House in Suffolk. Helpers will need to have the volunteers as for the weekend project can spare the

9. THE SUNNY SUMMER SHOW: GLENROTHES, FIFE

July 3 - August 16 Min age 18

The show is a community scheme for all ages, but does concentrate mainly on July and August. The show operates throughout the New Town of Glenrothes. The show is charged £5 per week towards the cost of volunteers are charged £5 per week towards the cost of 8 weeks, join the Sunny Summer Show where you can

8. DIG AND CHOP: BRAINTREE, ESSEX

August 23-31 Min age 16

Become a budding Bellamy or an aspiring Attenborough among the nettles and brambles of this linear National Park. In conjunction with the British Trust for Nature Conservation, ten Toc H volunteers are needed for a week's project line between Dunmow and Braintree doing simple scrub clearing. Accommodation will be in Rayne Village. All equipment will be provided. Suitable outdoor clothes necessary. Why not 'signal' your intentions and drop us a line. SB.

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

A Toc H Deacon soon to be priested urgently needs secondhand Vestments and Sick Communion Set. Cannot afford to buy new. Tel: Buckley, Clwyd 544705.

Claeton five berth caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities including pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. May/June £50 pw, July £55 pw, August £65 pw, September £50 pw. Full details from: Mr J A Turner, 60 Hall End Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9HP. (Tel: 0234 768410).

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £10.50 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings. Ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Gloucestershire. Country cottage. B & B, family room, private bathroom. Good walking/touring for Glos, Cheltenham, Malverns, Cotswolds. Tel: Staunton Court 673.

Fund raising. Spring flower bulbs for resale at direct from grower prices. Good profits to be made on quality daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths etc. Add a new dimension to your autumn fayres, coffee mornings etc. Price list sent on request. M K & B Chappell, Fengate Road, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs. (Tel: Pinchbeck Bars 381)

Christian Singles. Social events, nationwide. Friendship contacts, weekend houseparties, fellowship groups. Holidays, home/abroad. Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

